

BLM's Biomass Utilization Strategy



July

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Purpose - The BLM will implement a strategy for increasing the utilization of biomass from BLM lands consistent with the National Fire Plan and using the tools of the Healthy Forests Initiative, including the new authorities for stewardship contracting projects and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The purpose of this strategy is to assist in implementation the goals of the National Fire Plan, and the National Energy Policy, the DOI Strategic Plan and the commitments made by the Secretary of the Interior at the Bioenergy and Wood Products Conference held in January 2004.

Strategy - Short-term efforts will focus on developing tools, increasing field office expertise and increases in acres treated with biomass utilized. These actions can be implemented by December 31, 2004. Longer-term efforts will build on the short term efforts and expand to working with partners and looking at barriers to biomass utilization. These actions can be implemented by October 1, 2005. **This strategy is a working document**, and will be modified as conditions change and new opportunities arise. This strategy fulfills some of the commitments of the National Energy Policy, Task 45.

Background -

A. National Fire Plan

1. Ten-Year Comprehensive Strategy (August 2001)



Goal 4: Promote Community Assistance
Guiding Principles:

Biomass Utilization – Employ all appropriate means to stimulate industries that will utilize small-diameter, woody materials resulting from hazardous fuel reduction activities, such as for biomass electric power, pulp and paper-making and composite structural building materials.

Actions: Promote markets for traditionally underutilized wood as a value-added outlet for by-products of hazardous fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration efforts.

2. 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy; Implementation Plan (May 2002)

One requirement of reducing threat of wildland fire is “active forest and rangeland management, including thinning that produces commercial or pre-commercial products, biomass removal and utilization, prescribed fire and other fuels reduction tools to simultaneously meet long-term ecological, economic and community objectives.” (pg 6 of Strategy)

An implementation outcome is “communities at risk have increased capacity to prevent losses from wildland fire and the potential to see economic opportunities resulting from treatments and services” (pg 15 of Strategy).

Performance Measure E. Percent of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels by mechanical means with by-products utilized.

Implementation Tasks. Create an internet-based information system to provide technical assistance and identify programs that improve and increase utilization of by-products from hazardous fuel treatments and ecosystem restoration activities.

Develop an improved technical assistance program to promote commercial uses for small – diameter materials.

B. National Energy Policy (Task # 45, Increase Biomass Utilization):

Develop strategies to encourage use of biomass from public lands. Develop an incentive program to encourage use of biomass as renewable energy. Find opportunities to utilize funding from other sources within the National Fire Plan (due 12.30.05)

Develop new procedures to offer the option of removal of small diameter woody by-products (biomass) in commercial and procurement contracts. (10.1.04)

Develop a short term strategy to increase the knowledge, new tools and expertise needed to increase the availability of biomass for market (10.0.04)

Develop a long term strategy for marketing, infrastructure development and biomass supply (12.30.05)



C. DOI Strategic Plan:

DOI Strategic Goal:	2.0: Resource use
End outcome goal:	2.4: Manage or Influence Resource Use to Enhance Public Benefit, Promote Responsible Use, and Ensure Optimal Value – Forest and Woodland Products
End outcome measure:	2.4.02: Volume of wood products offered consistent with applicable management plans, PD lands.
	2.4.04: Volume of wood products offered consistent with applicable management plans, O&C lands
	2.4.05: Responsible use: Percent of permitted acres maintained at appropriate land conditions and water quality standards.

D. Commitments made by the Secretary of the Interior

Bioenergy and Wood Products Conference, Denver, Colorado (January 2004):

1. By October 1, 2004, the DOI and the Forest Service will publish in the Federal Register new procedures for commercial and procurement contracts, when appropriate, that will offer the option of removal of small diameter woody by-products to be used for bio-energy.
2. The DOI will work with the National Association of Conservation Districts to develop regional workshops on biomass utilization and fuel reduction in support of the National Fire Plan.
3. The DOI will develop web-based information tools to increase understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits of biomass thinning for forest restoration and catastrophic fire risk reduction.

E. Existing Policies and IM/IB:

1. MOU – Woody Biomass Utilization, USDA, DOE, DOI (June 2003).
2. Biomass Energy Opportunities on Public Lands, Office of Wildland Fire Coordination (2003).
3. Program Evaluation of the Public Domain Forest Management Program (May 5, 2003).
4. BLM State forestry action plans (2002).
5. IB No. OF&A 2002-058, Biomass Utilization (September 9, 2003).
6. IM No. OF&A 2002-032, Utilization of By-Products produced by Hazardous Fuels Reduction Activities (July 17, 2002).



Biomass Energy Opportunities on Public Lands

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National
Lead Comple-
tion Date Status/Comments

1.0 Short-term Goal: Increase the utilization of biomass from treatments on BLM lands, where opportunities exist.

1.1. Develop tools

1. Action: Develop a comprehensive definition of biomass, such as "small diameter woody material that can be used to generate a commercial product."	WO270	Oct-04	Start with existing definitions, broad enough to include forage.
2. Action: Develop contract specifications for appraising biomass by finalizing Wood Fiber Utilization Contracting Procedures.	WO270	Dec-04	
3. Action: Develop guidelines for estimating biomass volume .	WO270	Dec-04	
4. Action: Develop guidelines for tracking biomass accomplishments, building on DOI strategic plan, and biomass definition.	WO270	Dec-04	Start with 10-year Plan performance measure E.
5. Action: Increase the number of fuels IDIQ task orders that include a biomass component , by modifying existing "salvage" clause, and developing a new template.	WO270, FA600, NBC	Oct-04	
6. Action: Assist developing DOI clauses for biomass removal in all appropriate commercial sales and service contracts (resulting in the contractor buying the material for at least the minimum market value).	OR State Office, WO270	Oct-04	

1.2. Build expertise within the BLM, and networks with other agencies and organizations.

1. Action: Identify demonstration projects in several States for 2005 BLM funding priorities. Criteria will include business and community infrastructure, <u>BLM staff expertise, and resource potential. Advertise lessons learned.</u>	WO270, FA600	Oct-04	Coordinate with other DOI agencies and OWFC.
2. Action: Continue filling new forester/forestry technician positions in key field office, implementing the BLM State Action Plans, and national office. (in addition to 4 positions filled in 2004.)	WO270, FA600	Done for 2004	Coordinate with hiring of fuels specialists.
3. Action: Train BLM staff in use of biomass guidance and "tools" (stewardship contracts/agreements, biomass clauses, etc).	WO270, FA600, NTC	ongoing	
4. Action: Train key partners , governments, tribes, contractors, etc in use of "tools" (stewardship contracts/agreements, biomass clauses, etc) so that they <u>can participate/compete in contracts/agreements.</u>	WO270, FA600	ongoing	Build on MOU with NACD. Coordinate with BIA and FS.
5. Action: Facilitate technology transfer with key partners , governments, tribes, contractors, etc by participating in DOI/USDA website (under HFI), conferences, developing key BLM staff, participating in technology centers.	WO270, FA600	ongoing	Build on MOU with NACD. Coordinate with BIA and FS. Have Biomass on HFI website by August 1.

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	National Lead	Comple- tion Date	Status/Comments
1.3. Increase percent of acres treated with biomass utilized			
1. Action: Increase the number of 2005 fuels and stewardship projects that include a biomass component.	WO270, FA600	Done for 2004	
2. Action: Increase funding available for biomass projects in 2005, including fuels and community assistance, CCS/CCI, stewardship receipts, MLR.	WO270, FA600	Dec-04	
3. Action: Develop incentives for increasing biomass products in areas where opportunities currently exists.	WO270, FA600	Dec-04	Consider transportation bid items.
4. Action: Identify barriers in existing land use plans which impede effective biomass utilization.	WO270, WO210	Dec-04	
2.0 Long-term Goal: Increase the utilization of biomass from treatments on BLM lands nation-wide, as appropriate, including in developing markets areas.			
2.1. Develop tools			
1. Action: Develop CXs for limited timber harvest.	WO 270	Jan-05	
2. Action: Develop evaluation criteria for awarding contracts in "best value" solicitations, where contractors utilize biomass.	WO 270	Jan-05	
3. Action: Develop timber sale provisions to reduce slash disposal deposits when the purchases utilizes biomass.	WO 270	Jan-05	
4. Action: Develop budget proposals for grants and base funding.	WO270, FA600	Jan-05	
2.2. Build expertise within the BLM, and networks with other agencies and organizations.			
1. Action: Connect key partners with grants available for DOI, USDA, EPA et	WO270	ongoing	Coordinate with NACD.
2. Action: Continue filling new forester/forestry technician positions in key field office, implementing the BLM State Action Plans.	WO270, FA600	ongoing	
3. Action: Actively engage the USDA Forest Service in implementation of Title II of HFRA -- grants for research of biomass use, rural revitalization through forestry and biomass commercial utilization.	WO270	Jan-05	
4. Action: Actively engage the USGS in implementation of Title IV of HFRA (applied research assessment of federal lands that are at risk of infestation).	WO270	Oct-05	

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	National Lead	Completion Date	Status/Comments
5. Action: Train BLM staff in use of biomass guidance and "tools" (stewardship contracts/agreements, biomass clauses, etc).	WO270, FA600, NTC	ongoing	
6. Action: Train key partners , governments, tribes, contractors, etc in use of "tools" (stewardship contracts/agreements, biomass clauses, etc) so that they can participate/compete in contracts/agreements.	WO270, FA600	ongoing	Build on MOU with NACD. Coordinate with BIA and FS.
7. Action: Facilitate technology transfer with key partners , governments, tribes, contractors, etc by participating in DOI/USDA website (under HFI), conferences, developing key BLM staff, participating in technology centers.	WO270, FA600	ongoing	Build on MOU with NACD. Coordinate with BIA and FS. Have Biomass on HFI website by August 1.

2.3. Increase percent of acres treated with biomass utilized.

1. Action: Promote landscape planning across ownerships , estimating long term supply from BLM lands and incorporating concepts from community assistance planning.	WO270	Oct-05	Investigate CROP and other models, five year vegetation management schedules.
2. Action: Where appropriate, incorporate biomass in land use plans, including removing barriers that exclude commercial product removal in appropriate areas (i.e., such as direction in RMP that disallow commercial vegetative treatments).	WO270	ongoing	Consider regional, state or national plan amendments.
3. Action: Increase the number of stewardship contracts and agreements that include a biomass component.	WO270	Oct-05	
4. Action: Implement DOI clauses (currently being developed) for biomass removal in all appropriate commercial sales and service contracts (resulting in the contractor buying the material for at least the minimum market value).	WO270	Oct-05	
5. Action: Report by State, biomass performance measures, and incorporate into 2006 budget allocations.	WO270, FA600	Oct-05	